

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,564,005 to Weber et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,448,980 to Kumar et al. However, Kumar et al. '980 was filed on October 9, 1998. The present application claims a priority date of September 11, 1998. Kumar et al. '980 therefore is not prior art to the present application.

This application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is invited to telephone the undersigned. Applicant does not believe that additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

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